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Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 PRS-01 ISO-00 SIG-02 SSO-00 SS-15 NSC-05

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DRAFTED BY AF/P:JMPOPE:SCS
APPROVED BY AF/S:FGWISNER
S/PRS:FBROWN (INFO)
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O 162302Z AUG 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 203684

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PFOR, US, SF, RH

SUBJECT: AUG. 16 PRESS BRIEFING ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

1. DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN FRED BROWN, AT PRESS BRIEFING MONDAY, WAS ASKED FOR REACTION TO SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER MULLER'S SPEECH "PARTICULARLY WHERE HE BASICALLY SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD SUPPORT U.S. MOVES FOR MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA." BROWN RESPONDED "I REALLY HAVE NOTHING MORE THAN WHAT WAS SAID ON SATURDAY (OR ON FRIDAY NIGHT, ACTUALLY) AND WHAT SECRETARY OBSERVED ON SATURDAY MORNING -- NAMELY THAT WE CONSIDER SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S SPEECH POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TOWARD SOLUTION OF PROBLEM. THERE ARE GREAT MANY DIFFI-CULTIES REMAINING, HOWEVER, AND WE CONSIDER SOUTH AFRICAN ACCEPTANCE OF PRINCIPLE OF MAJORITY RULE FOR RHODESIA MAJOR STEP FORWARD. BUT THAT HAS BEEN SAID FOR RECORD, FRIDAY NIGHT AND SATURDAY. SO BASICALLY, I AM SIMPLY RESTATING THAT."
2. Q: WOULD THIS BE KIND OF STEP THAT COULD BRING ANOTHER MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND PRIME MINISTER IN NEAR FUTURE?
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A: THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR SECOND MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND PRIME MINISTER IN NEAR FUTURE.

3. Q: CAN YOU EXPAND ON THAT AND TAKE IN POSSIBILITY OF SOMEONE OF MR. SCHAUFELE'S LEVEL MEETING WITH MR. VORSTER?

A: QUESTION OF AMBASSADOR SCHAUFELE AND UNDER SECRETARY ROGERS GOING TO AFRICA IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION. BUT THERE IS NO DEFINITE TIMEFRAME AND NO FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN. BUT IT IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION.

4. Q: COULD YOU BE LITTLE MORE SPECIFIC THAN AFRICA? SOUTHERN AFRICA? SOUTH AFRICA?

A: IT WOULD BE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. NOW I HAVE NO SPECIFICS AS TO PLACE OR TIME, BUT IT IS UNDER CONSIDERATION AND IF IT IS CONSIDERED THAT SITUATION IS RIGHT, THEN DECISION WOULD BE MADE. BUT AS OF THIS MOMENT THERE IS NO DECISION.

5. Q: WOULD THEY GO TO SOUTH AFRICA, AS WELL AS TO BLACK STATES?

A: I HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THEY WOULD GO TO SOUTH AFRICA.

6. Q: SO THAT IS NOT UNDER CONSIDERATION NOW? WELL, LET ME REPHRASE THAT: WHAT YOU ARE SAYING IS THAT WHAT IS UNDER CONSIDERATION NOW IS TRIP BY THEM TO BLACK

STATES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA?

A: THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING, YES.

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